



TOPSIDE



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The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

June 2003

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TRAINING SCHEDULE

Training requests are being accepted for the August **Working Diver Refresher** and September **Working Diver/Divemaster** courses. Please contact Laurie Barber for enrollment or if you have any questions about requirements.

The **Working Diver Refresher** course is designed to certify NOAA divers whose dive activity has lapsed a year or more, certify NOAA Scientific divers in the use of a dry suit, or is an option for the initial certification of Scientific divers.

The **DMT Preparation** course has replaced EMT - see this issue of TOPSIDE for more information.

Course schedules through January 2004:

2003:

Aug 19 - Aug 22	Diver Refresher	Seattle, WA
Sep 15 - Oct 03	Working Diver	Seattle, WA
Sep 29 - Oct 03	Divemaster	Seattle, WA
Dec 01 - 12	DMT Prep	Seattle, WA
Dec 15 - 20	Diver Medic	Seattle, WA

2004:

Jan 12 - 30	Working Diver	Key West, FL
Jan 26 - 30	Divemaster	Key West, FL



NEW F D O

In accordance with NAO 209-123, the Director, NMAO, has appointed Mr. Steve Urick as NOAA Fleet Diving Officer. Steve will replace LT Bill Cobb as NOAA Fleet Diving Officer, effective immediately. Congratulations, Steve !

EMT COURSE CHANGE

The NDP and NMAO Office of Health Services are in the process of formulating a course to replace the current EMT class. This course is designed to better prepare divers for certification as Diver Medical Technicians.

This new course is similar to the EMT-Basic course with curricula based upon the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchstanding (STCW) Medical Person in Charge (MPIC), with eventual USCG certification in mind. Under this plan, EMT certification (initial and re-cert) will no longer be offered. The new course, based on MPIC curricula, will be taught December 1-12, 2003.

The change in curricula was driven by a desire to accommodate the pre-requisites for DMT, and to design a course better suited for remote or shipboard environments than the current shore-based, urban-oriented EMT program .

The MPIC course is designed to acquaint the student with short- and long-term care for the sick or injured patient. Anatomy and physiology, diagnostic procedures, basic and advanced first aid techniques, CPR, automated external defibrillator (AED) the use of drugs and medication, medical reports and communications, as well as other shipboard medical problems will be presented in depth.

More information about the new course will be presented in next month's TOPSIDE. Additional information about the MPIC curricula in general can be found at <http://www.mptusa.com/medical.htm>.

T. R. I. TEST KITS

Dive compressor air test kits are scheduled to be mailed from TRI to ships/units starting July 14, 2003. If you will be unable to complete the testing at that time for any reason (travel, compressor maintenance, ship's sailing schedule, etc.), please contact Laurie Barber (laurie.barber@noaa.gov) as soon as possible to reschedule the mailing of the test kit. 



WORKING DIVER CLASS

Congratulations to the May Working Diver graduates! Back row, L to R: Jeremy Potter, NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration; James Walker, Seattle Fire Dept.; ENS Jeffrey Shoup, NOAA Ship RONALD H. BROWN; Christopher Harvey, Northwest Fisheries Science Center; Jake Glotfelty, Alaska Dept of Fish and Game. Second Row, L to R: Ryan Bailey, Seattle Police Dept; ENS Kelley Stroud, NOAA Ship OSCAR ELTON SETTE; LTJG Noah Lawrence-Slavas, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, ENS Allison Melicharek, NOAA Ship MCARTHUR II; David Sylvester, Seattle Police Dept; William Driggers, Southeast Fisheries Science Center; William Engleby, Florida Keys Natl Marine Sanctuary; LTJG Jeremy Weirich, Office of Ocean Exploration; LT Paulene Roberts, NOAA Ship MCARTHUR II; and Steven Kolinski, Southwest Fisheries Science Center. 

LOGGING DIVES

Two reminders about logging dives: Be sure to indicate a Divemaster or Lead Diver for every dive on your Monthly Diving Log, and to differentiate between a decompression stop and a safety stop.

If you have a diving supervisor topside while diving operations are ongoing, indicate them as a Divemaster; if no topside supervision, indicate the senior diver as Lead Diver.

Safety stops continue to be incorrectly reported as a required decompression stop. A safety stop is a *precautionary* decompression stop used to account for variations in ascent rate variation and individual variations in nitrogen absorption and elimination and is simply logged as noting "Yes" or "No." No time associated with the stop is reported. A safety stop is used for all dives deeper than 60 fsw and / or repetitive dives, and safety stop time does *not* count as either bottom time or SIT. The procedure is to stop at 15 to 20 fsw for 3 to 5 minutes. A safety stop is not a decompression stop, and should not be logged as such. 



DIVEMASTER CLASS

Congratulations to the May Divemaster graduates! Back row, L to R: Steve Katz, Northwest Fisheries Science Center; Don Henry and Mark Crowthers, Seattle Fire Dept.; Joe Cepeda, Seattle Police Dept. Second Row, L to R: ENS Katheryn Peet, NOAA Ship MCARTHUR II; Jeff Meucci, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game; and James Johnson, Seattle Police Dept. 